DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar, the reason why the lands have to be auctioned is that there is such a rush of applications for land that it is impossible to decide between the various applicants. In such a case the only way open to the Government is to auction the land and allow the highest bidder, if the bid is satisfactory, to get the land. Rules are, however, now being framed to deal with such cases. I hope that the matter will then be worked more smoothly.

In regard to the talk of poor persons having the first choice to the land, experience has been that when people without any sort of means take to cardamom cultivation, and for some reason or other, their cardamom plantations do not pay, rather than pay the tax, they allow the land to be auctioned and go away. That happens in many cases.

MEMBER: In the case of *puduval* lands ?

DEWAN : The same thing holds good in the case of *puduval* lands as well. In regard to the manner of disposal of lands, new rules are being framed. Auction on the spot is not always possible in the High Ranges and Peermade because sometimes in these wild and desolate places there is nobody at all on the spot to bid and so the auction has to be carried on elsewhere where there are people to bid.

12. Difficulties experienced by the Cheramars in obtaining registry of Puduval lands.

MR. PARADI ABRAHAM ISAAC (*Member, Nominated*) said that the difficulties experienced by the depressed classes in getting *poramboke* and *puduval* lands registered had not ceased to exist, in spite of the facilities afforded by the Government in the matter. The rule regarding the assignment of 3 acres of land under concessional terms to every family of the depressed classes failed to have the desired effect, mainly because the lands earmarked for such assignment were quite unfit either for human habitation or cultivation. All good lands were in the possession of others. The unsympathetic attitude of the subordinates of the Revenue Department was another reason for the rules not having the desired effect. He therefore suggested the following remedies :—

(1) The Protector of the Depressed Classes should be invested with the powers of a Division Peishkar for sanctioning concessional registry of lands.

(2) A full-time officer should be appointed as the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

(3) Four officers, invested with the powers of a Tahsildar in the matter of registry of lands, should be appointed under the Protector of the Depressed Classes to work for a period of ten years, one in each of the four Revenue Divisions of the State.

(4) The lands already earmarked in the taluks of South Travancore were barren and useless for cultivation and those in the Kuttanad tracts submerged under water. A committee consisting of the Protector of the Depressed Classes and five gentlemen among the Cheramars *viz.*, Messrs. P. A. Isaac, A. J. John, A. T. Asirvadam, P. J. Joseph and N. J. Joshua, should be appointed to select more useful lands and the expenses connected with the committee should be borne by the Government.

The member prayed also that the entire area of lands already selected by the various disafforestation committees should be registered in the names of the Cheramars alone on recovery of the *taravila* due in ten annual instalments in view of the fact that they formed the real cultivating class. Besides such lands, he considered that the following reserved forests and lands included in such forests should also be disafforested and assigned to them :—

(i) The Valiakavu Reserve, comprised in Survey Nos. 49/1 and 35/1 of the Ranni *pakuthi*, Pattanamtitta taluk.

(ii) The land comprised in Survey No. 5191/1 of the Pattanapuram *pakuthi*, Pattanapuram taluk.

(iii) The Kalaketti Reserve in the Minachil taluk.

(iv) The *Kuvakkavu* and other blocks included in the Manimala Range.

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(v) The fuel reserve comprised in Survey No. 355/1 of the Kanjirapalli South *pakuthi*.

(vi) Portions of the Karikattur Reserve comprised in Survey No. 778/1.

(vii) The grazing block comprised in Survey No. 354/1 of the Punalur *pakuthi*, Pattanapuram taluk.

(viii) 91·59 acres comprised in Survey No. 521/1 of the Vechur *pakuthi*, Vaikam taluk.

(ix) (*a*) 111·44 acres comprised in Survey No. 275/1 of the Takazhi *pakuthi*, Ambalapuzha taluk.

(*b*) 79·35 acres comprised in Survey No. 327/1 of the Takazhi *pakuthi*.

(*c*) 136·46 acres comprised in Survey No. 32/8 of the Porakad *pakuthi*.

(*d*) 172·98 acres comprised in Survey No. 32/9 of the Porakad *pakuthi*.

Besides these, the lands comprised in the Naluchira, and in the old Survey Nos. 19/1, 20/1, 30/1 and 35/1 of the Porakad *pakuthi* should be sub-divided into small blocks and assigned to members of the depressed classes.

Lastly, the member said that many members of the depressed classes had encroached upon and improved portions of several grazing blocks. It would be very hard if they were evicted. The existing occupations should therefore be regularised, it being at the same time ruled that no further occupations should be made.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Paradi Abraham Isaac, special efforts are now being made by the Government for the assignment of suitable lands on concessional terms to depressed classes under whom the Cheramars are reckoned. The Government are also examining the question of appointing a whole-time Protector of the Depressed Classes who will be able to assist your and other communities to secure lands.

13. Concessional registry of lands.

MR. AIYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) represented that portions of lands assigned to the Pulayas in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, in the year 1094, were still in the possession of the wealthy and influential people of the locality, though tax was being paid by the Pulaya registry-holders. The Government could not proceed against the occupants because the lands were registered lands. Nor were the Pulayas able to sue the occupants in civil courts, because of their poverty. The lands could be deemed to be on a footing with service *inam* lands which should not be alienated. The Government could therefore resume such lands and re-assign them to the Pulayas. He therefore requested that necessary rules be framed for the purpose.

His next prayer was that an extent of 179 acres of *kayal poramboke*, forming portion of the Vellayani lake and comprised in Survey Nos. 236/1 and 238/1 of the Tiruvallam *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, might be assigned to the Pulayas for wet cultivation.

He next complained that his application for the registry of one acre of land comprised in Survey No. 9177/A of the Quilon *pakuthi*, Quilon taluk, was pending from the year 1097 onwards. Similarly, the application for a cremation ground for the Pulayas in the Trivandrum town had been pending for more than five years. Although orders for the registry of the land were passed, the land had not been actually handed over to the Pulayas.

The necessity for the appointment of a full-time officer as the Protector of the Depressed Classes was next urged. In many taluks lands had been earmarked for registry in the names of the depressed classes; but permission to enter on the lands was not granted, and for the grant of such permission they had to depend on the subordinate officers of the Revenue Department who were creating unnecessary trouble. The only remedy for removing the evil and for the better working of the rules regarding concessional registry was the appointment of a full-time officer as the Protector of Depressed Classes with powers to enquire into and dispose of *puduval* applications from members of depressed classes.

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